

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Marshalstown** Ref: **123**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **230**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>230</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the entry form and the small map of that part of County Wexford. The map really should be a sketch of the details of the village and could indicate various aspects of the village, such as where the churches are located, schools and other places of interest. Anybody could draw up the map that could contain the centre of the village, and for instance roads that branch off the main street.

It is important to have a three to five year plan of action, and here again this could be a simple exercise, by just looking at the area and deciding that certain work could improve the environment and aesthetics of the village, and then put these items down on paper. You could be surprised to find that an adjudicator, or some local person, may be able to offer advice where for instance you may need planning permission to do work on an old building like a Lime Kiln, and further more there could be conservation grants for such works. The fact that a plan is drawn up does not commit you to actually do work. I note you have about six meetings per year and you get a good response every April for litter clean up. It is good to learn that you are interacting well with Wexford County Council. Keeping the parishioners informed of your activities and plans is a good idea through the Parish Newsletter. Once children become aware of the benefits of looking after the local environment they generally act responsibly and I see they help out with the litter clean up, and look after the bird boxes. It is pleasing to find that the Amenity Group find the competition to be good.

### **The Built Environment:**

I had some difficulty in finding Marshalstown because it is situated off the main roads, but what a pleasant surprise to get on finding the church which is of elegant architectural style. It is maintained in pristine condition with wonderful stone wall boundaries. The landscaping all around the church is very attractive with neatly trimmed grass. I admired the new altar in the graveyard which is kept in excellent condition. The car parks for this area are spacious and spotlessly clean. This picturesque area shows what can be achieved by the energy

and leadership qualities that are so obvious in Marshalstown. The school looked crisp and fresh with some good shrubs and flowers. Of particular note were neat arrays of roses. The Community Centre is undoubtedly a good modern building, but it looks rather bleak in appearance, but I did notice that a number of new rowan trees were recently planted inside the wall which will in time reduce the visual impact of the building. Some nice hanging baskets of flowers plus some more in tubs were noted at the Community centre.

#### **Landscaping:**

I saw the work that was done in the old graveyard which is most unusual, unfortunately I was unable to open the big wrought iron gate and perhaps you could give it some attention to make it easier to open. Neat landscaping was noted throughout the village and the stone walls are magnificent with the unusual granite stone capping. There are some attractive tubs of shrubs with adornments of bright and dark red roses, near the little stream at the old graveyard. The landscaping at the church is supreme, and the school is well adorned with trees, shrubs and flowers.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

I note your remarks that the wildlife is encouraged by your community and there is no hunting or shooting in the area. This location is a haven for lots of wildlife with the great corn fields, new and old trees, stone walls, hedges and ditches.

#### **Litter Control:**

I read that you have two Fás workers in the area every Monday morning to look after the litter and they are doing a good job as the area was practically litter free on my visit.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

I saw the bottle bank at the Community centre which was well serviced, and it is obvious that the school children are playing their part as the school surroundings are crisp and clean.

#### **Tidiness:**

Some new houses are being constructed and this has an obvious effect on the tidiness of the village, but in fairness the work is done in a responsible fashion. Some weeds are noticeable here and there on the footpaths, and to cater for such a large area you could use a chemical such as roundup which is safe to use and will not harm the environment of wildlife.

#### **Residential Areas:**

St Joseph's park has a nice signpost where there are well maintained houses and the road leads down to the nice children's playground. I note your remarks about Meadow Brook and the omission of a signpost to the estate, and perhaps a residents association could be formed and a small amount of money raised to erect a signpost. There are nice recessed entrance walls going into the estate, and the houses are well finished. If name plates are put in place perhaps you could put the Irish equivalent of Meadow Brook Cluain Struthán on them as well. There are some fine individual houses in the village that displayed great arrays of shrubs, trees, lawns and flowers and one white house is a good example of this as it is surrounded by a lot of trees, mainly oak.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Most of the roads are in good condition around the village, except the road by the church which is need of some attention. The great stone walls already mentioned are great boundary walls. The signposts were all clean and distinct.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit Marshalstown for the first time. I left with a lasting memory of the church and its surroundings. Congratulations are due to all concerned. Well done.